



## U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Wisconsin*

517 East Wisconsin Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

414 / 297-1700

### NEWS SUMMARY

#### **Subject: Election Day, February 17, 2004**

United States Attorney Steven M. Biskupic announced today that Assistant United States Attorney Lisa T. Warwick has been selected to serve as the District Election Officer for the Eastern District of Wisconsin during the 2004 elections.

This appointment was made pursuant to a nationwide Department of Justice Voting Integrity Initiative first announced by Attorney General Ashcroft in Washington, D.C. in 2002. The purpose of this nationwide federal law enforcement program, which the Department has implemented during national general elections since the late 1960's, is to ensure public confidence in the integrity of the election process by strengthening and enhancing the Department's efforts to protect voting rights and to prosecute election crime throughout the country.

United States Attorney Biskupic said, "Election fraud dilutes the worth of votes honestly cast. It also corrupts the essence of our representative form of government. As a crime against both the individual and the government, it will be dealt with promptly and aggressively."

As part of her responsibilities as District Election Officer, Assistant United States Attorney Warwick will coordinate as needed with Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on February 17, 2004, while the polls are open. These individuals will be on duty in this district on election day to receive complaints of election fraud. Assistant United States Attorney Warwick can be reached by the public at 414-297-1700. The FBI also will have Special Agents available in this district to receive allegations of election fraud on election day. The FBI can be reached by the public at 414-276-4684.

United States Attorney Warwick will also work closely with her counterpart at the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office, Assistant District Attorney Michael Mahoney, who can be reached at 278-4053.

United States Attorney Biskupic stated that most forms of election crime are easily recognized, such as voter bribery, voter intimidation, and ballot forgery. Other forms of election fraud are more subtle. It is, for example, a federal offense to seek out the elderly, the socially disadvantaged, or the illiterate for the purpose of subjugating their electoral will. Furthermore, every voter has the right to mark his or her ballot in private, free from the watchful eye of election partisans.

United States Attorney Biskupic said "The detection of election fraud depends in large part on the watchfulness and cooperation of the American electorate. It is imperative that those who have been asked to participate in questionable election practices, or who have observed or have specific information regarding electoral corruption, make that information available immediately to this office or to the FBI. The cooperation of this country's citizens in helping to protect the sanctity of the ballot box is crucial. It is also appreciated."

# # # # #

For more information contact:

Assistant United States Attorney Lisa T. Warwick - 414-297-1700  
Public Affairs Liaison Francia A. Wendelborn - 414-297-1700  
Assistant District Attorney Michael Mahoney - 414-278-4653